

**TESTIMONY OF  
TIM BOLTON  
STAFF CHAPLAIN  
ST. VINCENT'S MEDICAL CENTER  
BEFORE THE FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 13, 2014  
SB 368, An Act Phasing Out The Hospital Tax**

My name is Tim Bolton. I am a Deacon and I am the Coordinator of the Pastoral Care Department at St. Vincent's Health Services, **and more importantly I am a Dad of a special needs child.** I am here today to ask you to support SB 368, An Act Phasing Out The Hospital Tax. I am also here to thank you for supporting hospitals in the past.

If you want to want to see the result of the way you legislate funds, I invite you to come to Oronoque Lane in Stratford, and meet my daughter Kaitlin. She would clap for you. This in and of itself is no small miracle, since Kaitlyn has a genetic disorder called Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome. It's a chromosomal abnormality that impacts typical motor, physical, and mental development. The reason she can clap is because of the care she's received in Connecticut hospitals.

Katie has been involved in and receiving special needs services for 19 of her 22 years from St. Vincent's. When you have a 100% dependent, young, vulnerable child, it's not easy to put your trust in people – as a parent there is so much you don't know. My wife and I didn't understand the complexities of the clinical environment. We just knew we wanted our daughter to have relief from her chronic pain, and Saint Vincent's Medical Center was a safe haven for us.

When Katie needed a place to go where people knew her, had her best interests in mind, showed her love and affection, and treated her with professionalism and grace, we came to Saint Vincent's Special Needs. As parents, my wife and I have full confidence in the staff—they're like extended family. And under their care, she's blossomed. As Katie's health improved and her pain diminished it allowed her special light to come on, and to become someone we at times never thought she could be. Katie is always going to be dependent on my wife and I, but she is achieving her potential in life. What a gift that is!! There is joy in her everyday life, and she brings this joy to everyone she meets.

Katie is our story, but she is far from the only story. The special needs community relies on Connecticut hospitals to provide ongoing care and therapy. It is critically important that hospitals have the funds they need to continue to provide the highest level of care to families across our state.

Phasing out the hospital tax will help keep hospitals strong and ensure the best patient care. My daughter Kaitlin would applaud you, and so many others who cannot yet clap may some day, with your help.

Thank you for considering my testimony.



Graduation June 2013 Bunnell HS Stratford

Graduation June 2013 St. Vincent's Special Needs